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REPORT OF THE  
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1960

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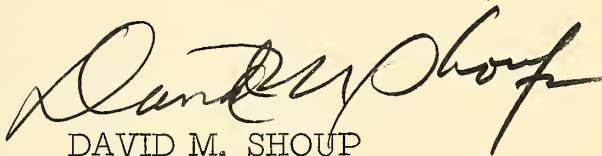
From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: Submission of Written Material for the Annual Report of the  
Secretary of the Navy

Ref: (a) SECNAV INSTN 5000.5A of 5 Jun 1959

Encl: (1) Chapter IV, Marine Corps Operations

1. In accordance with reference (a) the enclosed submission for the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of Defense is forwarded herewith.

  
DAVID M. SHOUP



#### IV MARINE CORPS OPERATIONS



## EMPLOYMENT OF MARINE CORPS FORCES

The Fleet Marine Forces, composed of three combat Marine Divisions and three Marine Aircraft Wings, together with supporting elements, remain capable of meeting initial requirements for limited and general war. The deployment of these Division/Wing Teams, supporting forces, and supplies and equipment supports the national strategy of maintaining ready, mobile forces, suitably deployed to be instantly responsive to such international crises as may develop. Elements of the Fleet Marine Forces located in the Western Pacific, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic are prepared for immediate commitment to combat. These forces are backed by substantial forces on both the East and West coasts of the United States which are equally ready for deployment and combat.

The Marine Corps, during the period covered by this report, has undertaken a Troop Test Program designed to examine the practicability of reorganizing elements of the Fleet Marine Force to enhance the combat capabilities of the Marine Corps. This is covered in greater detail in the section on Organization, Operations and Training. Although results of this Troop Test Program will not be available for some time, the Marine Corps continues to develop and emphasize the doctrine of initial entry into combat via the amphibious vertical envelopment.





During the past year, Marine Corps landing forces of the Atlantic Command, together with amphibious and other naval supporting forces have been maintained in a ready condition in the Caribbean for possible employment in that troubled area. In the Pacific Command, arrangements were completed for maintaining a Special Landing Force afloat in the Western Pacific. A Marine Battalion Landing Team forms the nucleus for this landing force. These actions have enhanced the readiness posture of naval forces in widely separated areas of the world.

The continued imposition of personnel ceilings on the Marine Corps has required a continuation of certain elements of the Fleet Marine Force in a cadre status during the past year. It is anticipated that a favorable personnel situation in the foreseeable future will permit bringing some of these cadred units to more effective strength. Even so, the Fleet Marine Forces will necessarily remain on a manning level less than 100 percent of T/O strength; however, should employment of the Fleet Marine Forces be directed, the Marine Corps will be able to deploy three combat Divisions and three Marine Aircraft Wings.



## MARINE CORPS OBJECTIVES

Personnel allocations sufficient to permit adequate levels for Fleet Marine Forces.

In the past, personnel limitations made it necessary to reduce to cadre status six battalion landing teams and the equivalent of six aircraft squadrons. The cadre status of these units, coupled with manning levels imposed throughout the Fleet Marine Forces, reduced the combat effectiveness of each wing and division by 20 percent. Flexibility was also impaired. While it is possible to deploy three combat divisions and three Marine Aircraft Wings, it is not possible to deploy and simultaneously to execute mobilization plans with the personnel strength currently authorized. Although in FY 1961 most cadre units will be brought to strengths adequate for combat employment, manning levels below T/O strength will continue to be necessary in all Fleet Marine Force units.

Increased availability of fast, modern amphibious shipping.

Amphibious shipping geared to the tempo of modern amphibious warfare requirements continues to be a key factor in overall balanced fleet capabilities. While the reduced reaction time resulting from maintaining an afloat battalion landing team in both the Sixth and Seventh Fleets can offset deficiencies to some



degree, the availability of greater numbers of high speed ships compatible with vertical assault concepts remains a vital objective. The World War II ships of amphibious type continue to age at a greater rate than they can be replaced. In an effort to increase the availability of high speed lift, continuing consideration has been given to further conversion of CVS type ships to LPH employment. The final solution, however, remains in providing the active fleets with sufficient fast modern shipping for lifting two Marine Division/Wing Teams simultaneously.

#### Modernization of Marine Corps forces.

The Marine Corps maintains continuous study and evaluation of concepts, organization and equipment of the Fleet Marine Forces in order to insure the capability to meet the changing requirements of modern combat. Present doctrine provides for entry into combat by helicopter vertical assault, by surface assault, and by a combination of these two techniques. Efforts continue to be made to secure increased flexibility and performance with more efficient equipment. As an example, a Short Expeditionary Landing Field (SELF), employing mobile arresting gear and short field takeoff techniques for combat jet aircraft, was successfully employed in a major exercise during the past year. Continuing progress in research, development,



and procurement will permit additional similar improvements in the future.

Attainment of logistic capabilities consistent with the increasing speed and tempo of tactical operations.

The increasing speed of operations and the degree of dispersion inherent in the development of a vertical assault doctrine require that constant attention be given to the capability of logistic support to keep pace. During the past year efforts in this direction were reflected in the assignment to the Marine Divisions of lighter and newer equipment. Of equal importance is the achievement of sufficient stock levels to sustain combat until industrial mobilization can satisfy requirements, and the positioning of this material in locations where it is available to using units.





## MARINE ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

Organization: Operating forces of the Marine Corps constitute 60.5 percent of Marine Corps strength and are comprised of the Fleet Marine Forces, Security Forces and Ships' Detachments. At the close of the reporting period, the distribution of the remaining Marine Corps strength consisted of 22 percent to the Training Base, 10.9 percent to the Supporting Base and 6.6 percent to Transients-Patients and Prisoners.

The Fleet Marine Force consists of three Marine Divisions and three Marine Aircraft Wings, together with necessary Headquarters, Combat Support and Service Units. Approximately two-thirds of the Fleet Marine Forces are assigned to the Pacific Fleet, and one-third to the Atlantic Fleet. These forces provide the Fleet Commanders with the means of projecting naval power ashore, wherever, and whenever required.

As was the case in the past year, Security Forces again assumed increased commitments in providing security for five activities which were established during the period. This was accomplished by reducing the number of Marines assigned to other security establishments and by the deactivation of one Marine Barracks.



One LAAM (HAWK) Battalion was activated during the year which will soon provide an improved low altitude AA capability.

At the close of the reporting period, plans and directives were issued and accomplished to disestablish Marine Corps, Department of Pacific, San Francisco, California and to eliminate Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, combining its functions with Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic.

The future tactical organization of the Fleet Marine Forces will depend heavily on the results of the Field Test and Evaluation program which was developed during the past year. The scheduled tests under this program are designed to expedite the efficient and orderly assimilation of modern equipment into combat units. The tests will involve almost every type of Marine organization, both ground and air. Results are expected to point the way to tables of organization best fitted to accommodate and exploit the Marine Corps' newest hardware.

Operations: Except for the short period of 11 December 1959 to 18 January 1960, Marine Forces of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic were maintained in the Caribbean area as a result of the continued unrest in that area. Units serving in the Caribbean conducted training exercises on Vieques and at all times maintained a posture to respond simultaneously to missions requiring a force in readiness.



Also, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, furnished similar forces for the Sixth Fleet. This unit, designated as Landing Forces Mediterranean, was of BLT size and possessed an organizational and operational capability to conduct landing operations in support of Mediterranean area contingency plans. Operations during the entire period were limited to the conduct of amphibious exercises in furtherance of its readiness capability.

In the Seventh Fleet, as in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, the Marines assigned to this command continued to improve their readiness role. Both planning and training were directed toward improving the capability for rapid response to any emergency that may arise in the area of the Commander, Seventh Fleet. During the year, both training and operational capability of these Marine Forces were enhanced by completion of the relocation of one helicopter air group from Japan to Okinawa.

As examples of the readiness typical of Fleet Marine Forces, amphibious exercises Blue Star and LantPhibEx 1-60 deserve special mention.

BLUE STAR, a combined Seventh Fleet Amphibious Exercise, involved the 3d Marine Division, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, units of the 1st Marine Brigade and other Fleet Marine Force Pacific units. This exercise was supported by all elements of the Seventh Fleet. It also involved participation by the National-



ist Chinese Navy and Marine Corps. The exercise, conducted on Taiwan during the period 7 March - 10 April 1960, demonstrated the vertical envelopment capabilities of Western Pacific Marine Forces and marked the first helicopter lift of a Nationalist Chinese Marine Force. A significant feature of the exercise was the early establishment of a SELF (Short Expeditionary Landing Field). This short (3,400 feet) expeditionary field was constructed in 50 hours, and the first aircraft made an arrested landing at H plus 72 hours. Jet fighter and attack aircraft were operated successfully from the SELF employing the mobile field arresting gear (MOREST) for landing and utilizing afterburner or jet assisted take-off (JATO) for take-off.

LANTPHIBEX 1-60 was a major amphibious exercise conducted by the Second Fleet and a landing force consisting of 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing and supporting units of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic. This exercise was conducted on the United States East Coast during the period 22 March - 5 April 1960 and featured helicopter-borne as well as water-borne assault forces. The mount-out and deployment of this landing force were conducted in accordance with current contingency plans. This exercise was designed to test force capabilities to







seize, occupy and defend key points, evacuate personnel, protect U. S. interests and support or reestablish a friendly government.

The Fleet Marine Forces are in a high state of combat readiness and have completed a cycle of amphibious training which commenced with small unit training and progressed through major training exercises. Of significance is the fact that Fleet Marine Forces conducted 38 principal Amphibious Training Exercises during the year.

A reorganization has taken place within Reserve ground units in order that they conform, insofar as possible, with the structures of their regular Marine Corps counterparts. Due to lack of funds, units normally performing 24 or 48 drills were reduced to 22 and 45 paid drills respectively. All units performed fifteen (15) days of annual field training. Annual field training for portions of the Reserve included both air-ground exercises and amphibious training. Home armory drills for ground units are now being conducted on either a double or multiple drill basis. This has produced greater effectiveness of training and permitted an increasing emphasis on multiple unit field maneuvers and air-ground exercises in their own locales.



## LANDING FORCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In efforts to develop a high speed Landing Force Amphibious Support Vehicle extensive investigation was made of various design concepts based on the use of planing hulls, hydrofoils, ground effects, and combinations thereof. The Marine Corps also actively participated in a concentrated program of ground effects machines investigation, both theoretical and experimental, in coordination with ONR, BUWEPS, BUSHIPS, and the Army.

In the electronics field, major emphasis has been placed on the development of ground equipment which will enhance the capabilities of the Marine Corps in the areas of air control, air defense, and all weather air support particularly in regards to range and automation. In communications, the Marine Corps has emphasized the development of a family of single-sideband radios which will provide increased range and greater reliability.

In the engineering field, development and testing were completed and procurement initiated on a rough terrain crane and progress was registered on a rough terrain forklift - both sectionalized for helicopter transport. Testing has been satisfactorily completed on the LVTE-1 (Landing Vehicle Tracked Engineer) and plans are being formulated for the procurement of this item for use in clearing mines from beaches.



Development of Air Defense Guided Missile Weapons Systems has progressed satisfactorily. The HAWK Weapon System is now being issued to Fleet Marine Force units and REDEYE is in the developmental stage.

Testing is being conducted on prototypes of the XM70 115mm Boosted Rocket Artillery launcher. Development of ammunition for this weapon is also progressing satisfactorily. The Howtar, a combination of the 4.2" Mortar and the 75mm Pack Howitzer, will be field tested by units of the Marine Divisions in the very near future.

Operational requirements were completed for an Assault Support Helicopter, a Tactical ECM Aircraft and a Light Assault Transport Helicopter. In the aircraft armament field, development and testing of a multi-carriage bomb rack were accomplished. Action was also initiated to develop a means of protecting assault helicopters from heat seeking anti-air weapons such as REDEYE.



## PERSONNEL PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Strengths: The Marine Corps remained at a level strength of 175,000 personnel in FY 1960. End-year strength was slightly below that authorized as actual accessions in the fourth quarter were less than programmed. Favorable recruiting months in first quarter FY 1961 are expected quickly to attain authorized personnel strength.

Fiscal Year 1961 is expected to be a period of low personnel turnover, and increase in availability of personnel for Fleet Marine Forces from the present 50.6 percent is anticipated. Stabilized personnel concepts in the Unit Transplacement/Phased Input Program have been expanded to include all Infantry Battalions with the exception of those in the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii. In addition, three eight-inch Howitzer Batteries and all Aviation Squadrons are under separate programs of personnel stabilization which include movements of intact units overseas. All Fleet Marine Force tours overseas, with the exception of Hawaii, are without dependents.

The end year strength of the inactive Marine Corps Reserve was 258,477. The Ready Reserve was slightly in excess of the authorized strength of 208,000. Actual end year strength was 209,245; included in this strength were 41,562





drill pay reservists and 3, 270 three to six month trainees undergoing initial active duty for training. Organized Marine Corps Reserve strength was 44, 832 at end year.

Officer programs: A reserve officer active duty career program, including increased opportunities for service with the regular establishment, has been undertaken as a means to improve reserve officer retention. One year's implementation of the provisions of Public Law 86-155, the "Hump Legislation", has made progress in solving the hump problem and accomplishing an equitable career pattern and progression for the officer corps. New policies for required time in grade before voluntary retirement of colonels and lieutenant colonels have increased stability.

Requirements for specialists and technicians in the officer structure are being met to an increasing degree by expanded warrant officer and limited duty officer programs. Increased proficiency on the job is being achieved. Less technical training is being invested and lost in the short term officer who goes to inactive duty upon expiration of his obligated active service.

Requirements for lawyer officers are being met by the assignment of present lawyer officers exclusively to legal duties and by an augmentation of reserve lawyers who have been brought



into the regular establishment. A new Platoon Leader's Class, Law, has been established to insure adequate input of lawyers into the junior officer grades.

Enlisted programs: Continued emphasis has been placed on the four year enlistment, with 99% of all new enlistments being for this length of time. Standards for reenlistment remained at the high levels previously established.

The ratio of noncommissioned officers to the total enlisted population was 36.2% at year end. The project to establish a systematic determination of enlisted billet grade requirements in all Marine Corps organizations has been continued. This project will provide the foundation for a realistic and valid job evaluation system which will lead to the correlation of rank requirements among occupational fields. Approximately one-half of the initial evaluation phase was completed during the year.

The Marine Corps proficiency pay program expanded to a year end strength of 10,338 awards. All awards were within the P-1 increment at thirty dollars per month, and were effected under a system of competitive evaluation on the job within local commands. All awards were made in pay grades E-3 through E-7; pay grade E-3 was eliminated from eligibility effective FY 1961.



The decentralized promotion program for appointment to Lance Corporal and Corporal was instituted with the beginning of second quarter, FY 1960. This program has proven effective in encouraging local on-the-job competition for promotion within table of organization vacancies, and has made possible the current effectiveness of the stabilized unit concept wherein the local commanding officer trains and promotes his own junior leaders.



## LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The logistic support efforts of the Marine Corps have continued to emphasize readiness of the Fleet Marine Forces and optimum utilization of available resources, including inter-service support. The primary source of Marine Corps logistic support is its integrated supply system with supply centers at Barstow, California and Albany, Georgia providing support to the two Fleet Marine Forces and supporting establishments within their assigned geographic areas.

Significant improvements in the effectiveness of logistic support have been achieved through the following actions:

(1) Prepositioned War Reserve Stocks have been reviewed and non-combat essential items deleted.

(2) Stratification procedures have been refined to provide more accurate supply management information.

(3) In the field of maintenance, more efficient test and rebuild standards have been established to reduce the degree of disassembly necessary in Depot overhaul. An expanded use of production line techniques in small quantity job shop operations within the Marine Corps Supply Centers has also been established.

Materiel Program: As in past years the FY 1960 Marine Corps materiel procurement program was aimed at maintaining





the Marine Corps as the Nation's ready amphibious force. In FY 1960 no new item was procured unless it was a significant improvement over the item replaced. The FY 1960 materiel procurement program continued to follow the policy designed to reduce weight and bulk, increase firepower and mobility, and improve communications capability.

Modernization: Modernization of equipment in Fleet Marine Force units was continued in FY 1960 and resulted in the following significant improvements:

- (1) Equipment for one HAWK Battalion was delivered.
- (2) The first increment of a planned four year program for procurement of the 7.62mm weapons family was initiated.
- (3) An LVTP5 modernization program was initiated.
- (4) Procurement action was initiated for the first increment of a planned three year procurement of the Mask, protective, field, M17.
- (5) 233 Trucks 1/4 ton, M422 (Mighty Mite) were received and distributed to FMF units for service test.
- (6) Sufficient Carriers, light infantry, 1/2 ton, M274 (Mechanical Mule) were received to equip one Division with its initial interim allowance.
- (7) A light-weight, team pack radio relay system



for reliable communications between low echelon units was issued to troop units.

(8) An additional increment of modern single side-band radios was issued to provide a substantial increase in reliability and range of communications.

Mobilization Reserve Stock: The Marine Corps' mobilization reserve stocks were only slightly increased. The bulk of procurement funds which were available to the Marine Corps were used to procure new items for modernization.

Installation Program: FY 1960 funds allocated to CONUS Marine Corps managed installations for operation and maintenance of facilities amounted to \$93.9 million. \$5.01 million was appropriated for military construction at eight activities. Improvements were made in Marine Corps family housing assets through Capehart Housing construction. At the same time real property amounting to 1,275 acres of land and improvements thereon, valued at \$12.98 million were declared excess to Marine Corps requirements and disposal action taken.

Supply Management: During the year, procedures and programs have been developed whereby the computations of the Material Planning Studies are being done by means of electronic data processing machines. It is estimated that this procedure



saved approximately 25,000 man hours for the publications published by the Supply Department.

Formerly the Marine Corps requisitioning priority system permitted the use of only two types of priority designators, i.e., "EMERGENCY" or "ROUTINE". A new system anticipating JCS guidance has been devised which relates the military importance of the requisitioner (user) to the end use of the material in order that one of twenty numerical priority designators may be assigned to each request for material. The priority system has been related to the operation of the electronic computers which process Marine Corps punched card requisitions in such a manner that the computer will recognize the priority indicator and indicate appropriate supply action.

During FY 1960 electric accounting machine facilities were made available at the Marine Division and Marine Aircraft Wing levels to perform stock accounting mechanically and to prepare punched card requisitions. This permitted the preparation of requisitions in a suitable form for processing by UNIVAC computers at the Supply Centers and by Electric Accounting Machine facilities at other Stock Accounts, and accomplishes the mechanization of all supply in the Marine Corps.

Fiscal Administration FY 1960: The Congressional budget





provided a total obligational authority of \$978,600,000 in Marine Corps appropriations.

The Appropriation Act provided \$644,600,000 for "Military Personnel, Marine Corps" for a build-up of strength from 175,000 to 200,000 Marines. \$611,457,000 was apportioned for a begin and end year strength of 175,000 Marines and the remaining \$33,143,000 was held in reserve. In addition, \$12 million from the \$611,457,000 appropriated was made available to the Department of the Navy to fund higher priority programs.

\$24,300,000 was appropriated and apportioned for "Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps" to support an end strength of about 42,000 Marine Reservists in drill pay status and 3,000 six month trainees. These plans were successfully met.

\$175,850,000 was apportioned for "Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps" which included \$4,500,000 related to a build-up from 175,000 to 200,000 Marines. \$171,350,000 was apportioned for a begin and end year strength of 175,000 Marines and the \$4,500,000 withheld in reserve.

\$133,850,000 was appropriated for "Procurement, Marine Corps". This amount was augmented by unobligated balances to provide for a total apportionment of \$232,337,000.

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